

CLEAN VERSION OF ABSTRACT

**An Apparatus and Method for Controlling Access to a
Service Over a Communication System**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Apparatus for accessing a service over a communications network comprises an interface for connection to a communication line of the network, a memory for storing a unique serial number and configuration data, and a process of configuring the interface to communicate with a remote configuration system when the apparatus is first connected to the communication line and then to transmit the unique serial number. Configuration data is received from the remote configuration system and stored in the memory. The apparatus is then re-initialized to use the configuration data for future communications to access a service over the network.